

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A portable fluid heater heating tool capable of heating a flow of fluid to a desired temperature for killing vegetation, said portable fluid heater ~~having~~ heating tool comprising a fluid inlet for connection to a source of fluid, a fluid heating ~~means~~ assembly connected to the inlet, and an outlet for delivering heated fluid supplied by the fluid heating ~~means~~ assembly, wherein there is a temperature controlled pressure regulating valve disposed between the inlet and the outlet, the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve having a flow restriction ~~means~~ device capable of regulating the flow of heated fluid delivered to the outlet, and ~~heat-exchange means—allow~~ wherein the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve is disposed to-be in heat exchange communication with the fluid heating ~~means~~ assembly or with the heated fluid leaving the fluid heating ~~means~~ assembly, such that heating or cooling of the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve will cause the flow restriction ~~means~~ device to open or close to allow an increase or decrease in the flow of heated fluid leaving the outlet, to thereby control the temperature of the heated fluid leaving the outlet.

2. (Original) A portable hand tool capable of heating a flow of water to a temperature suitable for killing vegetation, said hand tool having a water inlet for connection to a source of water, water heating means connected to the inlet, an outlet nozzle for delivering heated fluid supplied by the water heating means, wherein there is a temperature controlled pressure regulating valve between the inlet and the outlet nozzle, the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve having flow restriction means capable of regulating the flow of heated fluid delivered to the outlet nozzle, and heat exchange means allowing the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve to be in heat exchange with the water heating means or with the heated fluid leaving the water heating means, such that heating or cooling of the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve will cause the flow restriction means to open or close to allow an increase or decrease in the flow of heated fluid leaving the nozzle, to thereby control the temperature of the heated fluid leaving the nozzle.

3. (Original) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve is situated between the water heating means and the nozzle.

4. (Original) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 2, wherein the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve

has a pressure chamber which acts on a moveable member, the pressure chamber containing a temperature responsive substance capable of generating a pressure within the pressure chamber to move the moveable member to regulate the opening or closing of the flow restriction means in response to changes in the temperature of the substance in the pressure chamber.

5. (Currently amended) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 4, wherein the substance is a liquid ~~and/or~~, a gas, or a mixture of a liquid and a gas.

6. (Original) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 4, wherein the substance is a mixture of water and air.

7. (Original) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 5, wherein the movable member is a diaphragm.

8. (Original) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 6, wherein the water heating means includes one or more electrical heating elements in or attached to a heat sink.

9. (Original) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 8, wherein a thermal cut-out is mounted on or in the heat sink

and is adapted to switch off the electric heating elements if the temperature of the cut-out exceeds a predetermined value.

10. (Currently amended) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 9, wherein the heat sink is an extrusion of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum and contains apertures or passageways for the heating elements and one or[[e]] more fluid passageways having a large surface area to volume ratio.

11. (New) A portable hand tool as claimed in claim 10, wherein the large surface area to volume ratio exceeds a ratio of about 1:1.

12. (New) A portable tool capable of heating a flow of water to a desired temperature for killing vegetation comprising:

(a) a fluid inlet for connection to a source of water;
(b) a fluid heating assembly connected to the inlet for heating a fluid entering the fluid inlet;

(c) an outlet coupled in fluid communication with the fluid heating assembly for delivering heated fluid supplied by the fluid heating assembly to vegetation to kill the vegetation;

(d) a temperature controlled pressure regulating valve disposed between the inlet and the outlet; and

(e) a flow restriction device capable of regulating the flow of heated fluid delivered to the outlet, wherein the

flow restriction device is interfaced with the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve such that heating or cooling of the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve results in the flow restriction device correspondingly opening or closing to allow an increase or a decrease in the flow of heated fluid leaving the outlet to thereby control the temperature of the heated fluid leaving the outlet.

13. (New) The portable tool of Claim 12, wherein the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve has a pressure chamber which acts on a moveable member, the pressure chamber containing a temperature responsive substance capable of generating a pressure within the pressure chamber to move the moveable member to regulate the opening or closing of the flow restriction device in response to changes in the temperature of the substance in the pressure chamber.

14. (New) The portable tool of Claim 12, wherein the water heating assembly includes one or more electrical heating elements in or attached to a heat sink.

15. (New) The portable tool of Claim 12, wherein the flow restriction device is interfaced with the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve such that heating or cooling of the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve results

in the flow restriction device correspondingly opening or closing to allow the increase or the decrease in the flow of heated fluid leaving the outlet to thereby control the temperature of the heated fluid leaving the outlet to be at or greater than about 100 degrees Celsius.

16. (New) The portable tool of Claim 12, wherein the flow restriction device is interfaced with the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve such that heating or cooling of the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve results in the flow restriction device correspondingly opening or closing to allow the increase or the decrease in the flow of heated fluid leaving the outlet to thereby control the temperature of the heated fluid leaving the outlet to be between about 100 degrees Celsius and about 115 degrees Celsius.

17. (New) The portable tool of Claim 12, further comprising a body in form of a wand having a handle graspable by a user for suspending the body above a ground surface, wherein the fluid inlet, fluid heating assembly, the outlet, the temperature controlled pressure regulating valve, and the flow restriction device are all coupled to the body.